# Call to Artists Centennial Ballpark Issued by City of Kingsport Office of Cultural Arts and Engage Kingsport

#### June 13, 2014

Request for Qualifications (RFQ):
Project Inspire Ball Fields Public Art Project, Kingsport, TN

Public Art Kingsport and Engage Kingsport requests qualifications from artists or artist teams for the design and/or fabrication of art for the Centennial Ballpark. Potential projects for the Ballpark include the following:

- Main entry gate and fence into the ball field plaza
- Barrier railing at the championship field terraced seating
- Site furnishings benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables
- Decorative pavement

**Eligibility:** This RFQ is open to all professional artists/artist teams and architects over the age of 18 who currently reside in the United States.

**Application Deadline:** Applications must be postmarked or received electronically by August 1, 4:00 PM EST. No exceptions. The application can be found in Appendix A.

### **Submission Requirements:**

- Digital Images: 5 digital images of previously completed artwork. Limit 10 MB per image, JPEG only.
- Resume or CV: Current professional resume or curriculum vitae (CV) including artist address, email, and phone number. Teams must submit one resume/CV with all team members included. Please specify each team member's role.
- Statement(s) of Intent: Maximum 300 words. Address how the applicant's previous experience and current artistic direction will result in a successful permanent public art project. Specific proposals are not requested at this stage in the process and will not be accepted.

**Project Budget:** Total public art budget for the Project Inspire Ball Fields is \$30,000 - \$40,000, inclusive of design, fabrication, engineering, installation and travel.

## **History of General Shale Products Corporation & the Project Site:**

The General Shale Products Corporation, a Delaware Corporation was formed and began operations September 1, 1928. The company was formed by merging the Kingsport Brick Corporation and the Johnson City Shale Brick Corporation on an equal basis.

The first Board of Director:	The first Officers of the Company:
J. Fred Johnson	J. Fred Johnson, Chairman
John B. Dennis	Sam R. Sells, President
Sam R. Sells	E.H. Hunter, Vice President
E.H. Hunter	J.C. Stone, Secretary
	Glen Bruce, Treasurer

Kingsport Brick Corporation was built and began operations in the fall of 1910, which was about the time the railroad was opened to the Carolinas. Stories have been told, it was the first red facing brick plant in the South. For many years the finest homes, churches, schools and colleges in the Carolinas, Georgia and into Florida used this product. It was the most profitable operation which paid a pretty high dividend for that time.

The Mill building was like most plants of that day, boxed up frame construction. It was propped up to keep it from blowing over and the equipment was old and out dated. In 1925, a very modern building was constructed housing the most modern equipment anyone had seen. This should have produced better quality at cheaper costs, but it failed to do so. Mr. Mahan, who had built the plant and operated it successfully until his death in 1924, was succeeded by a person that was not able to run the plant as successful and the sales department suffered.

Then the idea of merging with Johnson City Shale Brick Corporation was conceived, an idea that had been in the works since 1920. Mr. Sam R. Sells, President, was recognized as an outstanding operator and E.H. Hunter an excellent sales Manager. After considerable negotiations this merger was completed. This was a sound idea, as there would be one sales force and one general office. The Johnson City Company which was organized in 1920 was built because they could not get sufficient brick for the "booming" years after the war. At that time Kingsport was growing fast, the Johnson City brick quality was inferior to Kingsport's, but the Johnson Company had a better sales force. This new company did well the first year or two until the depression.

The project site was originally part of the Holston Heights area (Cement Hill), and the Kingsport Brick Corporation was identified on the historic John Nolan Plan of Kingsport from 1917. According to "Kingsport: A Romance of Industry", by Howard Long, it is the second oldest manufacturing industry in Kingsport.

### **About the Centennial Ballpark:**

The Centennial Ballpark will be a five (5) field softball/baseball facility located on the previous General Shale Brick property.

The ballpark will accommodate both recreational needs within the community, as well as be a new major attraction for tournaments. The complex will include a 350' Championship Field with terraced spectator seating, 3-325' fields, and 1-300' field. Four of the fields are oriented in a wagon-wheel pattern, typical of many other ballparks (i.e. Domtar Park in Kingsport), with a central building. This central building houses a concession area, restrooms, meeting room, storage, and includes a second story scoring area. The central building will incorporate General Shale 'Cortez' brick.

**Project Details:** Public Art Kingsport is seeking artist or artist teams to work with Public Art Kingsport and the Ball Field Design Team in the design, fabrication, and installation of art inside and outside the Ball Field facility. All art should have a theme that blends the past and present – the history of the site and General Shale with the new ballpark complex, and be compatible with the themes of community, recreation and natural beauty.

# Proposed areas of focus include:

- Main entry gate and fence into the ball field plaza
  - This entry will also serve as an access point for emergency vehicles (fire and ambulance),
     so a 20' minimum clearance through the gate must be maintained.
  - Double Leaf Gate Dimensions: 24 feet total width and 8 feet minimum height

- Gate must be lockable
- o Archway (if part of the design) Minimum Clearance: 13 feet height
- Fence Suggested Dimensions: 8 feet tall minimum (fence sections will connect to 8 feet tall, black vinyl coated outfield fencing) – approximate length 18 linear feet on each side of the entry gate
- Suggested materials: stainless steel, aluminum, or other durable metal. The design shall incorporate the General Shale 'Cortez' brick.
- o Site Plan: See Appendix B
- o Entry Elevation: See Appendix C
- Barrier railing at the championship field terraced seating
  - o Dimensions: 26 inches tall (height must allow for an unobstructed view for a seated spectator) and approximately 40 feet in length
  - o Suggested materials: stainless steel, aluminum, or other durable metal
  - o Site Plan: See Appendix D
- Site furnishings benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables
  - Suggested materials: Any durable material that will withstand heavy use and outdoor conditions
- Decorative pavement
  - Suggested materials: Any durable paving or hardscape material suitable for a horizontal application such as brick, stone, decorative concrete, etc.
  - o Site Plan: See Appendix B and D for potential locations

#### Other areas for art:

 An outdoor sculpture can be incorporated at the drop-off area, outside the main entry gate. See Appendix B for potential locations.

#### Timeline (subject to variation):

August 1, 2014 RFQ Due (received by Midnight MST)

August 22, 2014 Anticipated Artist selection panel shortlist

September 1 – September 5, 2014 Anticipated site visit for shortlisted artists

October 3, 2014 Proposals due from Artists

October 22, 2014 Announcement of selected artists

March 22, 2014 Installation of art April 15, 2014 Grand Opening

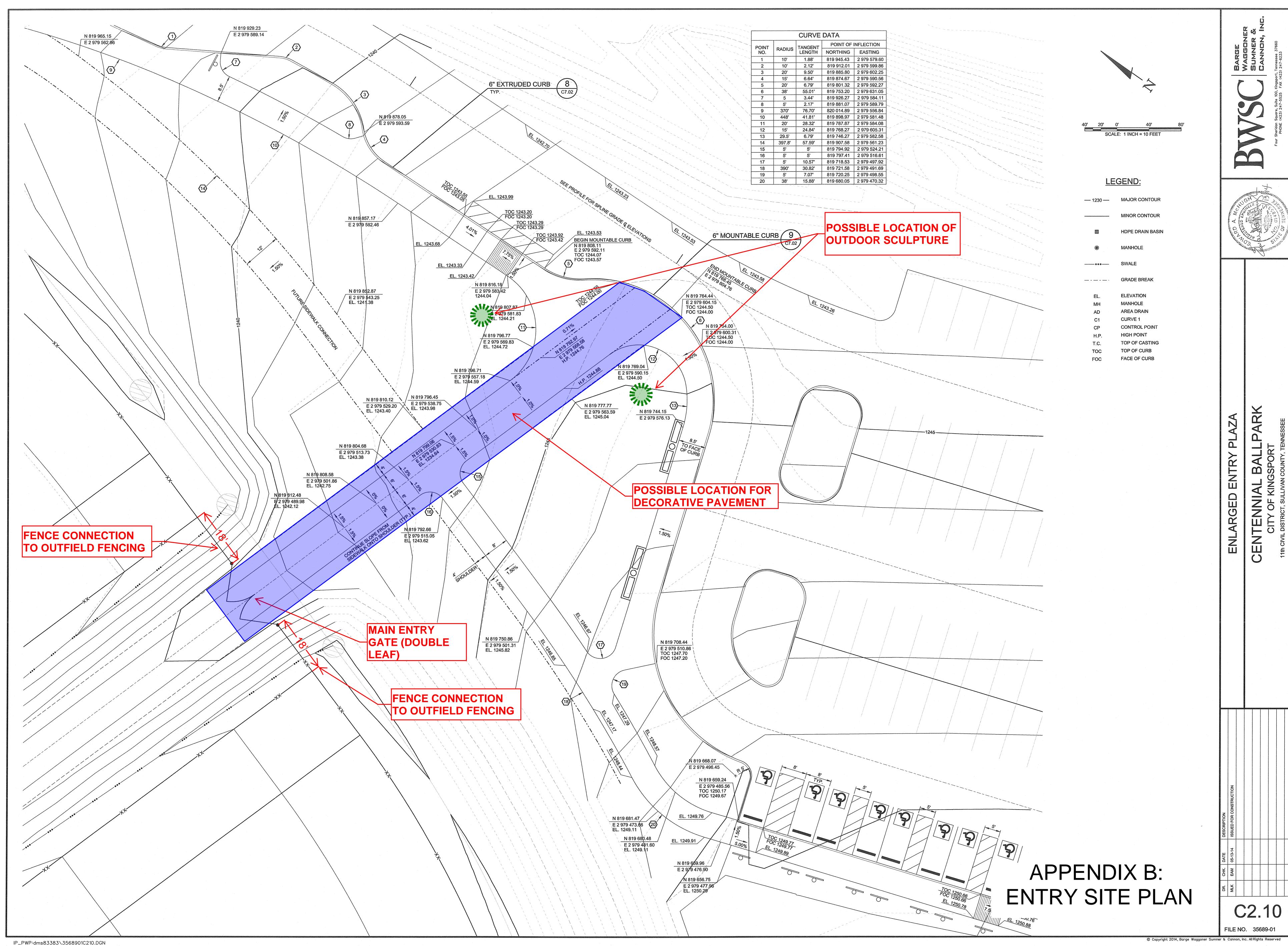
#### For Further Information:

All questions regarding this Request for Qualifications are to be directed to:

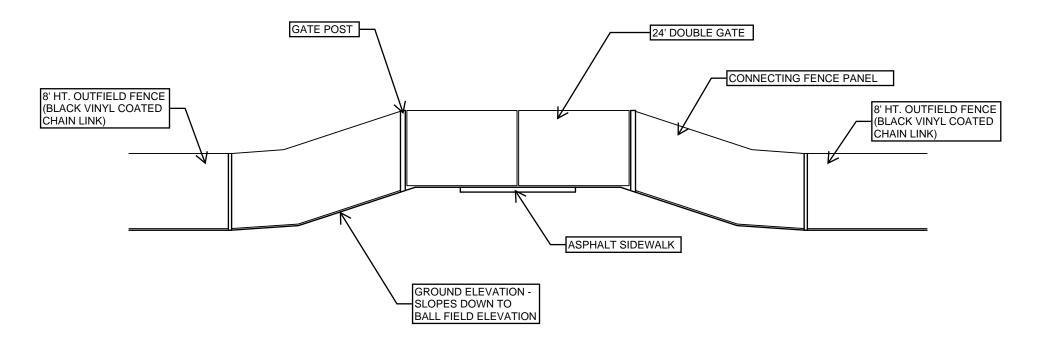
Bonnie Macdonald, Director City of Kingsport Office of Cultural Arts macdonald@kingsporttn.gov

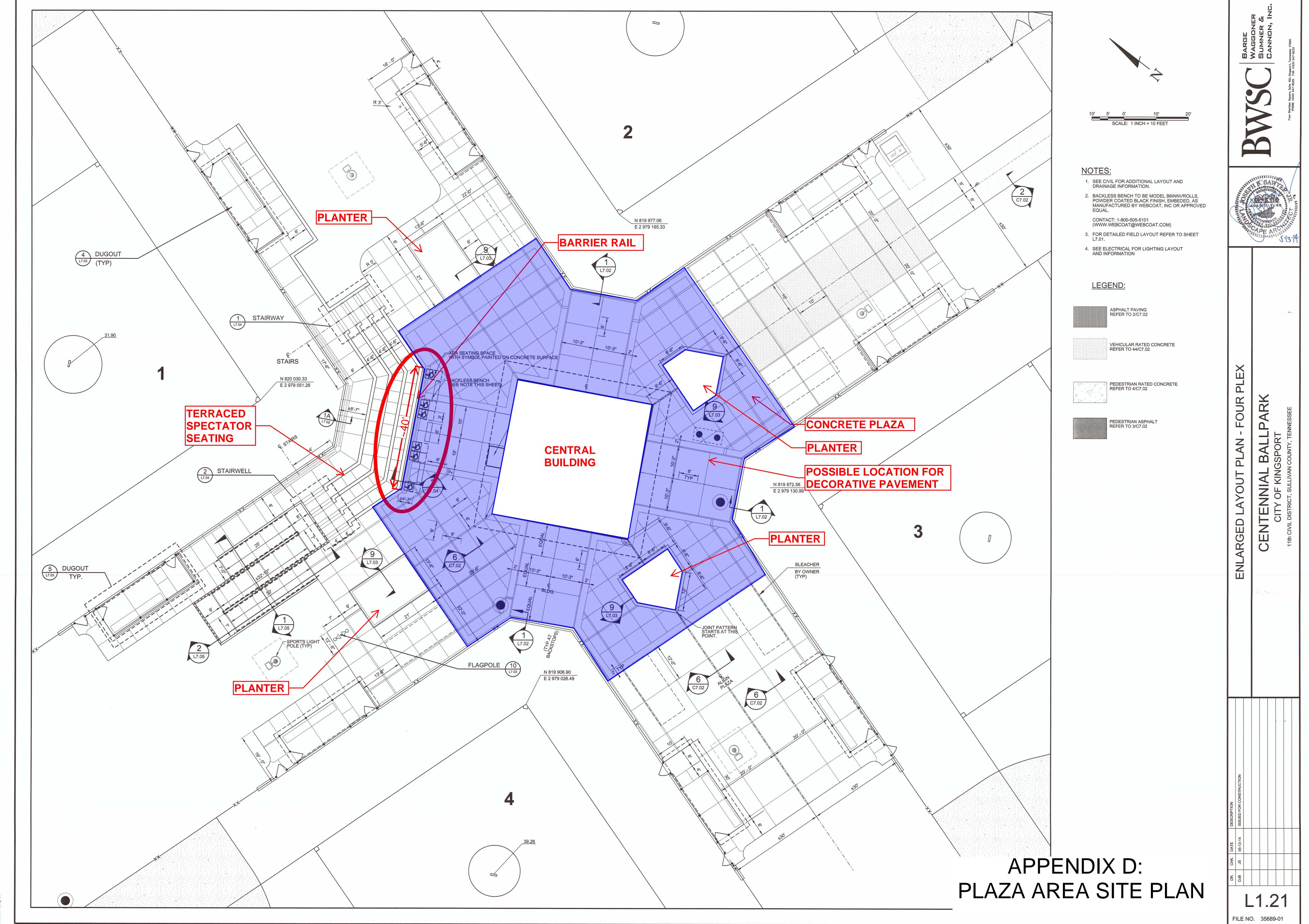
Please include artist name and phone number in all correspondence.

For complete packet of information, please visit: <a href="mailto:publicart.KingsportTN.gov">publicart.KingsportTN.gov</a>



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